# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ALLIANCE, OHIO

1854 - 1954





THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING-ERECTED IN 1858

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ALLIANCE, OHIO



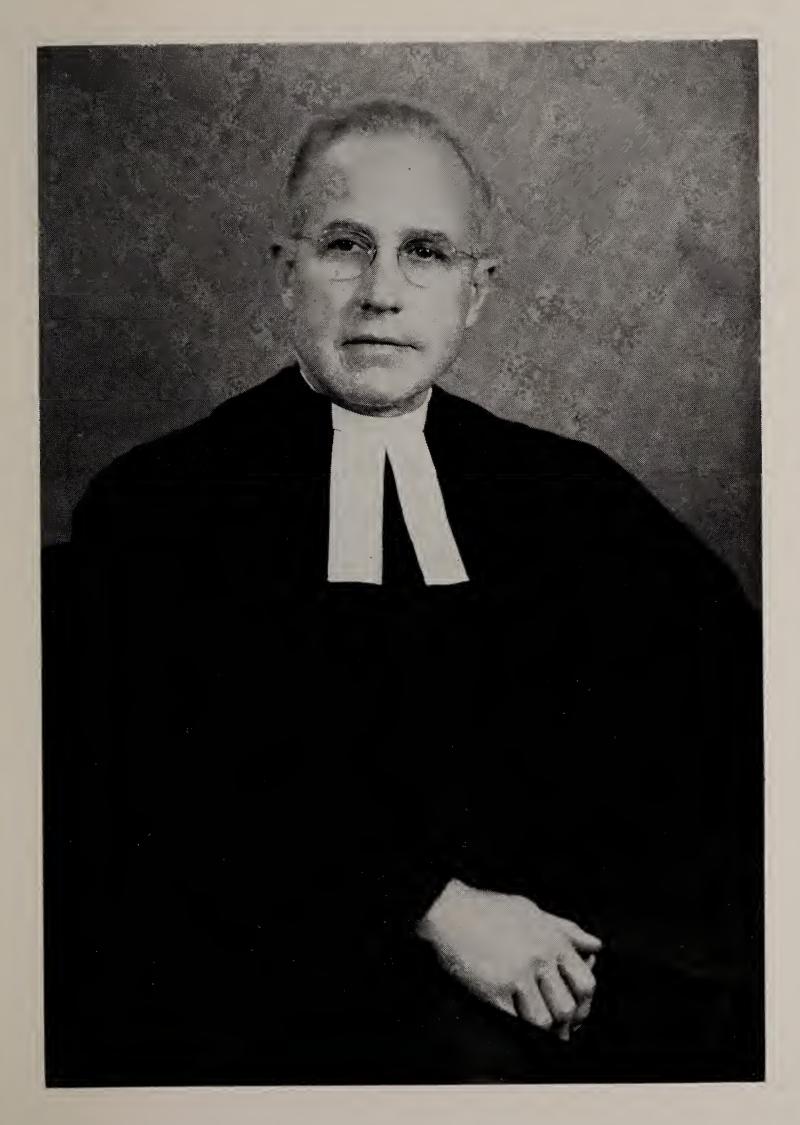
The First One Hundred Years
1854 1954

# "Temples Still Undone"

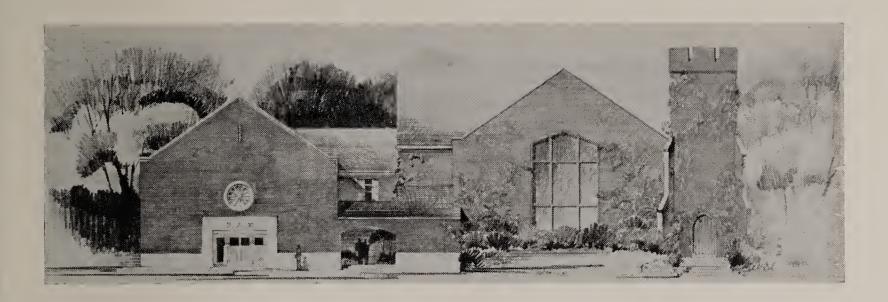


"Another temple waits Thee, Lord divine, The temple of my heart, O make it Thine"! This History is most fittingly dedicated to:

Doctor John Vant Stephens, Jr., who through more than one-fourth of the one hundred year period which this book commemorates, has given himself unselfishly far beyond the line of duty, to awaken within the members of this church a confidence in themselves, and a faith and trust in the Holy Spirit, which has inspired them to give of their time and talents for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.



The Reverend John Vant Stephens, Jr.



#### **Temples Still Undone**

Throughout the one hundred years of her history, the Church we love has been building — a Century of serving, of building, building — not only for Time, but also for Eternity. Foundations laid in the Ohio wilderness were sure foundations on which, through the years, the building has gone forward. Brick, stone, mortar and timber! Four times in a century we have built a House to the glory of God.

Now the visible temple stands complete! Now we may lay aside the hammer and saw and trowel. Stained glass, carved wood, the Altar — we have dedicated all to His service.

We look now to the Future. Have we made the beginning and the end of our building? No brick, no mortar needed more? No temple still undone? We stand empty-handed, wistful. Yes, there is yet another temple — the temple of the heart. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16). Shall not the Church we have built with our hands, be only the visible reminder of the Temple we shall be building throughout all Eternity?

"Another temple waits Thee, Lord divine,
The temple of my heart, O make it Thine!"

John Vant Stephens, Jr.

## The Centennial Program

#### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1954

- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19—Men's Sunday
  - 10:30 A. M.—Worship Service conducted by Men O' First. Guest Speaker:
    Mr. David W. Proffitt, Past President of National Council of
    Presbyterian Men.
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21—Presbytery Day
  - 9:30 A. M.—Presbytery of Mahoning will be our guests. Noon luncheon by reservation.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3-World-Wide Communion Sunday
  - 10:30 A. M.—The Holy Communion and reception of members with every loyal church member participating and partaking.
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5-Women's Night
  - 6:00 P. M.—Banquet and program in Eastminster Hall. Guest speaker:
    Mrs. Elizabeth Hazlet Buchanan, Past President of the National
    Council of Presbyterian Women.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10—Home Coming Sunday
  - 10:30 A. M.—Historical Service with presentation of the Centennial History by Mrs. Clark Shreve.
  - 2:00 P. M.—Centennial Reception with informal program. A chance to meet and mingle with friends old and new.
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14—Presbyterial Day
  - 9:30 A. M.—The Mahoning Presbyterial will be our guests. Noon luncheon by reservation.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17-World-Wide Mission Sunday
  - 10:30 A. M.—Worship Service. Guest Speaker, Dr. Charles T. Leber of New York City, General Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
    - 7:00 P. M.—Youth Service with Dr. Charles T. Leber as speaker.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24-Spiritual Life Emphasis Week begins
  - 10:30 A. M.—Worship Service. Guest speaker, Dr. Walter Barlow of Philadelphia, Retired Secretary of the Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
    - 7:30 P. M.—Centennial Pageant—"Temples Still Undone"
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28—Men's Night
  - 6:00 P. M.—Banquet and Program. Guest speaker, Dr. Walter Barlow.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31-Spiritual Life Emphasis Week continues
  - 10:30 A. M.—Worship Service. Guest speaker, Dr. Walter Barlow.
  - 7:00 P. M.—Youth Service. Guest Speaker, Dr. Walter Barlow.
- NOTE: Dr. Barlow will conduct a *Spiritual Retreat* for the entire congregation beginning Sunday, October 24 and running through Sunday, October 31. There will be meetings each evening at 7:30 o'clock.

### The Centennial History

#### "Yesterday, Now and Tomorrow"

Our First Presbyterian Church of Alliance has in its yesterdays one hundred years of genuine warm fellowship, one hundred years of community participation, and one hundred years of Christian Education which have radiated their effects far and wide. We wish to express our deep debt of gratitude to our forebears of this past century.

We now begin the second one hundred years. The potentialities of our church will be realized according to the measure of our faith. We may make the coming century what we will.

Looking back, we realize that we are the inheritors of the past. One cannot give our church history without linking it with the early founding of the city of Alliance.

#### First Citizens

Mound builders were Alliance's first citizens. It was not known until more recently that the present territory of Alliance was the home of these ancient people. Mr. John Stanley, former Superintendent of the Alliance Water Works, verified the fact that a large Indian mound stood about two hundred feet north of the Riverside Cemetery. It was leveled some seventy years ago by Jacob Shaffer and Frank Stanley. According to John Stanley, a considerable number of arrow heads were obtained. The location of a mound here was to be expected, for these works are found all along the Mahoning River. Willis Magrath's research in this particular phase of Alliance history has opened the "tie-up" with these ancient Americans known as the Hopewell Culture. According to Magrath, Alliance was the site of a very old industry, one that went so far back in the past that our pioneer industries seemed as yesterday. It was the flint quarry and arrow manufacturing by the Indians. Raw material was taken from the bed of a small stream just north of the State Road and East Mahoning Avenue where the the present Alliance Clay Products Company is located.

#### **Our County**

The County from which most of Alliance was carved, was established February 13, 1808, and was organized in 1809. It was named after General Stark, an officer in the American Revolution. It was a rich agricultural county, particularly a great wheat producing territory. There was an abundance of rich mineral deposits of coal, iron ore, limestone and clay. With the Mahoning River as a water supply the future looked promising. However, the chief handicap was transportation, for the produce had to be carried over land to Massillon and then shipped on the Tuscarawas Canal to the rivers and on to the world market.

About 1850 this particular area out of which Alliance grew was practically a primeval forest with only about two hundred inhabitants. The stories of Clayton Grant of the "Great Squirrel Hunt" of 1832 and the "Deer Hunt" of 1845 make one realize what a forest land it was, inhabited by numerous kinds of wild animals.

#### Origin of Alliance

The town of Alliance was formed by the union of Freedom, Williamsport and Liberty. Then years later, in 1889, the community of Mount Union (known as Jobstown, named after Job Johnson, an early settler) joined Alliance.

#### Village of Freedom

Freedom was surveyed and the plot laid out and filed in the county recorder's office July 24, 1838. The original village included the territory between Walnut and North Union Avenues and from the river to Wayne Street. North Union Avenue was then Liberty Street. North Park Avenue was Main Street at that time. The public square may still be seen at the intersection of North Park Avenue and Keystone Street, and the village well with its stone on top is in this square. Some of the oldest homes on North Park Avenue were built in the 1830's. One of these is the Philip Sharer home. Mr. Hester, who came from Salem, built another early home and was one of the founders of the First Baptist Church in Freedom. He added lots to the village and laid out North Freedom Avenue and Hester Avenue, parallel with the new Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad. He built the first brick house in the present city of Alliance. It was known as the Hester Block and is now a four apartment house on Hester Avenue, just west of the New York Central Railroad. The clay for the bricks came from the site of the artificial lakes on the Elk Home property. Mr. Hester kept a general store in the Hester Block and his supplies came from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh via the Ohio River to Wellsville and then overland. The round trip took six weeks time.

#### Village of Williamsport

The early history of Williamsport is "veiled by the curtain of time" because of the loss of records. It was laid out as early as 1827 on the North side of the Mahoning River by William Teeters. He must have been a man of sterling character and vision. It was he who built the "grist and saw" mills and did the grinding for families for miles around. Previously, the early inhabitants took their grains to mills located on the Ohio River until 1820 when a mill was erected at New Lisbon, Ohio. The Mahoning River of one hundred years ago was a mighty river compared with the small stream it is today. Mrs. Fred Donaldson tells the story of Job Holloway being killed by a falling beam in the erection of a mill in Williamsport. The first settlers in 1805 were "Friends" who were dissatisfied with living in the "slave" state of Virginia. Some freed slaves also migrated with these Quakers, for the Quakers' faith was one of tolerance and sympathy for colored people. Quite a few slaves built cabins along the Mahoning River. Some of these early settlers of Williamsport came from Williamsport, Pennsylvania and were United Brethren in religion.

#### **Community of Liberty**

The Community of Liberty extended south of the present viaduct to Columbia Street and west to Liberty Street. It was settled by railroad men and their families.

Second Church Building - Arch and Columbia

#### The Name, "Alliance," and the Railroads

This union of Freedom, Williamsport and Liberty came about by the crossing of the two systems of railroads. It was General Robinson who gave the town its present name, Alliance. It was incorporated on June 9, 1854. When the railroad lines from Cleveland to Pittsburgh and to Fort Wayne were a certainty, the farseeing citizens such as Mathias Hester, William Aultman, Michael and John Miller, Elisha Teeters and Isaac Webb purchased land near the projected railroad.

By 1854, Alliance was bounded on the west by Union Avenue or Mount Union Street; on the east by the railroad (only a few houses were south of Market Street) while Main Street ran through the center of town.

In the first election in Alliance in 1854, the "town-fathers" faced two important issues, the "Liquor Traffic" and the speed of the railroad trains through the city. The Railroad problem was settled by the ordinance limiting the speed to six miles an hour through the town. The second ordinance pertained to the "Liquor Traffic."

Mrs. Fred Donaldson writes in her History of Alliance, that "In 1851, the C & P Railroad was completed through Freedom. The stock subscriptions had sold at (\$50.00) Fifty dollars a share, entailing a hardship on some subscribers to meet payments. The first engine to come to Freedom, 'The Ravenna,' run by John Alby and fired by Benjamin McLain, was very beautiful and of attractive symmetrical design built at Taunto, Massachusetts."

#### Alliance Churches — Methodist

By this time the little town of Alliance had several churches. A Methodist Class was organized in the home of Michael Miller, an Albright local minister. Preaching was established in the village of Williamsport (now a part of Alliance) by 1839. This was in connection with the Salem circuit. Services were held in homes for several years until an old wheel-wright shop was obtained for this purpose. Through the efforts of Rev. S. B. Kinear, growth in membership made it urgent to erect a church. The first frame building was erected just east of North Walnut Avenue on East Perry Street in the old town of Freedom. Methodist services were held in Mount Union (or Jobstown) as early as 1832 under the leadership of Rev. Stephan Hubbard.

#### **United Brethren**

The United Brethren Church was perhaps the first denomination to erect a place of worship as early as 1840 in Williamsport. This old church stood on what was River Street near the old cemetery which still exists. Later, they built on North Freedom Avenue near Walnut Street, purchasing lots for \$400 from Matthias and Susannah Hester.

#### **Baptist**

There is evidence that a small Baptist congregation worshipped in Mount Union (Jobstown to the south of Williamsport) as early as 1831.

By 1838 Matthias Hester had visions of a permanent Baptist Church building. He set aside a lot just east of 16 Vine Street. By 1842, under the leadership of

Matthias Hester, Elias Ellett and Israel Bolton, the Baptist Church was built. There was a small congregation of Baptists worshipping in Mount Union. In 1855 the old Vine Street Baptist Church was out-grown and they began erecting a brick building on North Arch Street (now 230-238 North Arch Avenue). Before construction was completed, it was blown down by a wind storm. It was reroofed and a steeple was added, when a tornado completely demolished it. This sight was abandoned and another church was built at Market and Freedom, the lot being a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Teeters. It was dedicated September 20, 1857.

#### Roman Catholic

The Catholics had a visiting priest conduct services for them frequently, as early as 1848. The advent of the railroads through Alliance brought a number of Catholic Irish, German and French workmen who settled here between 1850 and 1854. Father Hannin purchased two lots at the southeast corner of Linden and Market (the location of the present Presbyterian Church) and built a modest frame structure dedicated in May 1862 to St. Joseph; thus the Catholic Church was named St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

#### Presbyterian

The Calvinists among the early settlers of Alliance were conspicuous by their absence. A strange and interesting incident occurred that brought about the founding of our church in February 1854, by Dr. Joseph Grimes. He later became the pastor from 1869 to 1885 inclusive. In his Church History, written in 1877, he related the following:

"In the spring of 1852, soon after my licensure and settlement at Salem, I was returning from Homeworth via Alliance, and purposed taking the evening train, but it had gone and I was unable to get away before mid-night. After taking supper with Colonel Sourbeck, who kept the old six-sided station house, and whose kindness then and in subsequent years I shall never forget, I walked over to the Old Sourbeck House which stood just opposite the present station house on the north side of the track, and not knowing anyone, I sat down to read the evening paper by the light of the fire in the office. A number of railroad employees came in and during their conversation, which was often very profane, an engineer offered to bet the liquor for the company that he could swear the most wicked oath of any man in the room. The bet was soon taken by another, and after a string of horrid blasphemy, the engineer, who made the challenge, won the wager and the other paid for the treat. Soon after, the wicked wretch began to speak of the uncertainties of railroad life, and in a very serious manner remarked, 'of all men, we railroad men ought to be the most religious, for I never open a throttle without feeling that I may be blown to hell before I get home,' and in accord with his presentment, not long after, a few miles east of town, he was blown into eternity. I was the officiating minister at his funeral. deep impression on my mind, that I made a prayerful resolve that I would never rest until I had started a Presbyterian Church at Alliance, being satisfied that if such a wretch as he had conscience left that would speak for the truth and the right, all railroad men might be reached and their souls saved with an everlasting salvation."

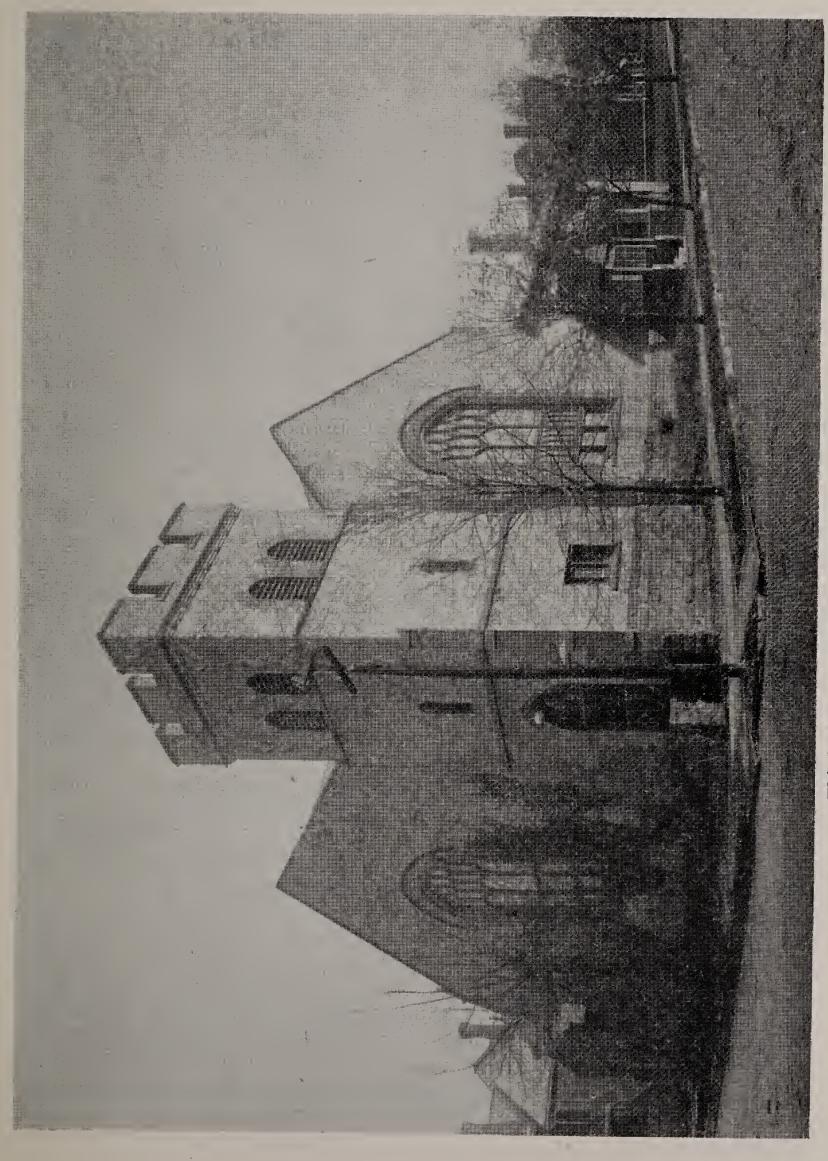
#### Dr. Grimes Organizes Church (1854)

Dr. Grimes reported to Presbytery the need for a church in the Alliance area, but he received no encouragement at first. He was not to be thwarted, so he traveled about the district preaching wherever he could find some willing listeners—at Freeburg to the West, in the Mount Union hotel, at Westville in an old carpenter shop lit by a single tallow candle, at Beloit and soon after in an old log cabin in the woods along the railroad almost within sight of Alliance. The minutes of the New Lisbon Presbytery of June 15, 1853, read as follows: "The Committee appointed at our last meeting to visit Alliance and vicinity, reported:—their report was accepted, adopted and is as follows, viz: That agreeably to the instructions of Presbytery they visited Alliance three different times, on each of which occasion one of their number preached: that on the second visit it was ascertained there were nineteen families in the immediate neighborhood favorable to the stated preaching of the gospel there each alternate Sabbath:—and that a committee of the persons then present were appointed to ascertain what could be raised for this object, reported that they had succeeded in raising between forty and fifty dollars for three months. Mr. James Pryse was appointed supply until their next stated meeting."

Finally, the patience of Dr. Grimes was rewarded. On the second day of February 1854, after a brief meeting in the home of Mr. Ely, Rev. Robert Dickson, Elder James Beer of Middle Sandy (near Homeworth) and Dr. Grimes proceeded to the old Baptist Church in Freedom, where they organized the First Presbyterian Church in Alliance with nine members. These members were Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Lee (grandparents of Miss Eva Lee, a retired Alliance teacher and Helen Lee Dixson of this city), Miss Rachel Lee, Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson and Mrs. Mary Hawkins, on examination; and Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Elder, Mrs. Margaret Transue (mother of the late Frank Transue who made a substantial contribution in her memory) and Mr. Solomon Shaffer, on certificate. Mr. Lee and Mr. Elder were elected, ordained and installed as ruling elders. These were trying days for the young pioneer church. "Life in the community was hard with few comforts and none of the attractions which are considered necessities today." We are told there were few of genuine Presbyterian stock here, out of which to build a church.

Rev. Robert McCollough was secured to preach as a stated supply. He was a spiritual man, "but in no way qualified for the work of building up a new organization." He seems to have been suffering from tuberculosis and after six months left the field overwhelmed with despondency and soon died. The church services were held in the attic room of the Ely block on Main Street, two blocks east of the present public square.

Dr. Grimes writes, "Fourteen months after the organization of the church it had neither minister nor elders, and when the last elder was leaving he said it was entirely vain to try to build up a Presbyterian Church in such a community, for there was no Presbyterian element to work upon." Yet Dr. Grimes goes on to add, "But he was blind to the fact that God's kingdom is gathered by aggressive warfare upon the world; from the unpolished stones in the quarries, God is able to raise up and build a glorious temple."



Not all the blame should fall on the little pioneer church. Presbytery somewhat forgot her youngest offspring. Dr. Grimes says, "The Presbytery did not do its duty in fostering the child of their creation, but seemingly left it to the tender mercies of God, without very much care or concern for its life."

It was realized that the young church needed a fearless and experienced leader, whose faith would be strong and unwavering. Dr. Grimes writes of the ridicule and persecution that the young church suffered. He says, "The little church had to encounter the odium cast upon her fundamental doctrines by ignorant, unreasonable and malicious caricaturists for many years after its organization. The nominal Christians of the community, the Armenian and Hickory Quaker element, were ever ready to repeat the impudent and often refuted slander, that the Presbyterian Church believed and taught the doctrines of Fatalism, the damnation of infants and approved of the persecution and murder of heretics. The reproach of the cross in the Presbyterian Church was then more than a name. Only eight years ago, a young man of some intelligence objected to a public profession of religion in the Presbyterian Church because the public prejudice against her doctrines would debar him from fashionable society."

After the resignation of Mr. McCollough, there was a period of about two years when the Church's future appeared discouraging.

#### Rev. A. B. Maxwell (1856-1858)

It was in this critical time that Dr. Grimes encouraged his Seminary classmate, Rev. A. B. Maxwell, to accept the challenge of this struggling church. He arrived for his new work April 12, 1856. That night, Alliance experienced a memorable tornado which completely destroyed the new Baptist Church along with many other buildings. The Ely Block was unroofed. It was in the attic room of the Ely Block that the Presbyterian congregation had been meeting. On Mr. Maxwell's first Sabbath at Alliance, he held his service in the Methodist Episcopal Church with only six in his audience. Mr. Maxwell remained until June 1856. The picture of the Presbyterian Church looked most hopeless. It was at this period that Christian Kramer, a man of the world, came unasked and offered a liberal contribution to aid the church. This seemed to be a turning point. The circulation of subscription sheets brought pledges for funds to support Presbyterian preaching in Alliance, a sermon every Sabbath for a year. It was a victory, with \$197.75 pledged and the full amount paid. This gave the members courage to request help from Presbytery.

The Presbytery responded with funds from the Board of Missions. Mr. Maxwell returned as a "Domestic Missionary" in 1857 and remained until October 1858. He must have had great courage. The membership increased to thirty-one and the church made its first recorded gift to benevolences. Gifts to congregational expenses had increased to \$225.00. Dr. Grimes says of Mr. Maxwell's ministry, "It was an incalculable blessing to the church for although he is not what is termed a brilliant or eloquent preacher, he is an eminent pastor full of spirit, strong in faith and abounding labours of love. He was the man for the place at the time and God honored his ministrations with unmistakable blessings."

They worshiped in the new Baptist Church on Freedom Avenue for about a year, holding their services at 2:00 P. M. It was in the fall of 1857 on a Communion Sabbath, that the Baptist's Communion service lasted until 3:00 P. M. The Presbyterians, including their minister, were not permitted to join the Baptists in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Dr. Grimes says, "This raised the blood of the Presbyterians." The next day, Mr. P. B. Garland held a conference with the Presbyterians and proposed that they build their own church. He promised he would build a house which would be ready for occupancy by October first if they would raise \$800. In a matter of a few weeks, the contract was granted for \$1200.00. On the last Thursday of October, 1858, the building was dedicated to God with Dr. Elliott of Western Theological Seminary preaching the sermon. Mr. Maxwell's connection with this church ended in 1858.

#### A Procession of Preachers (1859-1869)

While the young church had secured its first building under the able leadership of Mr. Maxwell, its struggle for existence was not yet won. The small group of members had trouble in securing and retaining ministers. Mr. Maxwell was followed by the Rev. Mr. Speer in 1858. Mr. Speer remained only nine months and was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Livingstone. Mr. Livingstone soon left, however, and various members of the Presbytery supplied the church until the fall of 1861, when Rev. William McKay was called. His pastorate was short-lived and he was soon succeeded by Rev. David M. Miller in 1862. Mr. Miller preached every fourth Sabbath, until he was called for half time in March, 1862, giving the other half of his time to the Bethesda Church near Hanoverton. From June 1865 to April 1867, Mr. Miller gave his full time to the church in Alliance. When his pastorate closed in April 1867, he had added one hundred thirty seven members to the church roll. In December 1867, Rev. Daniel W. Townsend was called. His labors were blessed, but he remained with the church only until July 1869. In the ten year period from 1859 to 1869 the church had five ministers. No church could thrive with such a procession of preachers!

#### Dr. Grimes Called to Alliance Church (1869)

In October, 1869, Dr. Joseph Grimes, the real founder of the church, accepted the call of the struggling young church in Alliance, now fifteen years old. Little did he dream when he organized the church in 1854, that fifteen years later he would become its minister. It was a happy day for the church when Dr. Grimes accepted the call.

Dr. Grimes was born near Athens, Ohio, on July 22, 1827. He was a graduate of Franklin College, New Athens, Ohio, and attended Western Theological Seminary in 1849. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of New London, Ohio, and was installed as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Salem, Ohio. He preached for six months in Miami City, Ohio, as a supply and declined the office of pastorate to accept a call to Columbia, Pennsylvania. Then in 1861, he became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in New Castle, Pennsylvania, and remained five years.

In 1866, he took a charge in Rockford, Illinois. It was while at Rockford that he accepted the challenge of the Alliance Church. He traveled through the Holy Land in the year 1877. He died in 1905 after fifty-two years of ministry.

During Dr. Grimes' pastorate of sixteen and one half years, he received 703 members, of whom 490 were on profession of faith and 213 on certificate from other churches. No less than thirty pastors attributed their conversion and entry into the ministry to his influence. That alone is a great tribute.

In a new town like Alliance it was not surprising that the church should suffer from the fluctuation of society. The population changed continually. The gains of one six months in church members would be lost the next six months. Dr. Grimes increased the membership from 260 to 408 in spite of fluctuation. In his diary he says, "A conscientious chorister has the most diflicut office to fill within the gift of the people. He is doomed to meet envy, petulance, strife, divisions and all manner of evil speaking. He is expected to be a saint—and is often required to furnish the full tale of bricks when all the straw has been taken away." The first chorister in the church was Thomas Beers, later Judge of the Court in Bucyrus, Ohio. He was succeeded by David Fast, Thomas Davis, J. W. Criswell, Wm. Vincent, Wm. Todd and again Wm. Vincent. Dr. Grimes referred in his History to the tremendous contribution in music made by Mrs. Agnes Cleland and Wm. Vincent.

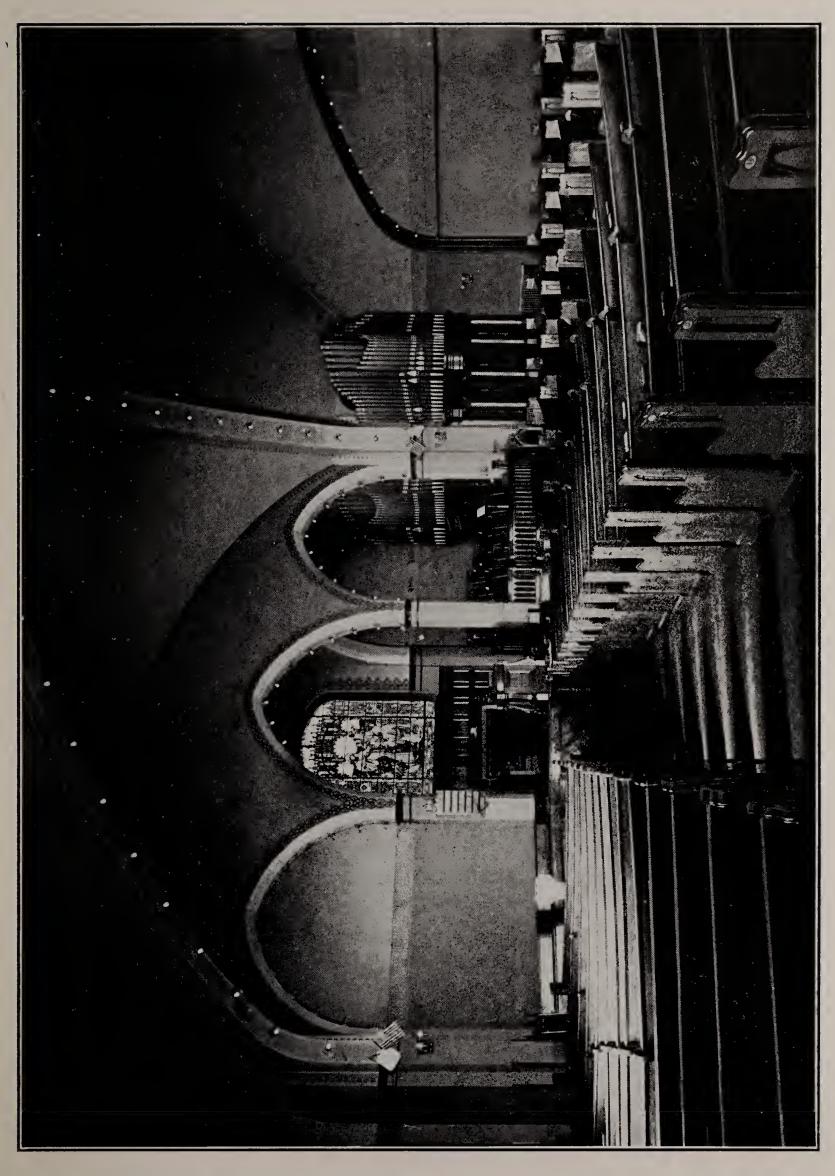
The community suffered for many years from a series of financial disasters. Unemployment of the laboring classes and the limited circumstances of the majority of the people led to the burden of church expenses falling on a few.

#### The Church Divides and Unites

While Dr. Grimes was still the minister, there arose some dissention and in 1884 the congregation split. Fortunately the loss of records concerning the cause has drawn a "curtain of merciful oblivion" at this point. A small number of members withdrew and, with the seceding members from other churches of the city, they built and maintained a church on the corner of Arch Avenue at East Columbia Street. This church was known as the "Westminster Church." Dr. Grimes continued at the Prospect Street church for a time, resigning in 1885. He was succeeded by Rev. David Waugh who served for only a year.

In 1887 Rev. Hiram S. Barnes was called to the Prospect Street church. He remained until 1891, when Rev. C. Delano Jeffries took up the pastorate. Mr. Jeffries was forced to resign in 1894 because of poor health. It was during the ministry of Mr. Barnes that the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized (May 18, 1887) with Mrs. Barnes, his wife, as President; Mrs. W. W. Cantine (grandmother of Mrs. William Akins) as Secretary; Mrs. George Ickes as Vice President and Mrs. Clara Burnett as Treasurer. There were thirty-three members enrolled in the first year of its organization.

Even before 1893, the Prospect Street church was becoming inadequate for its needs and the members were conscious of the growing demands for a new building. The leaders of the Westminster Church realized their burden to be too great and



several overtures were made to the Prospect Church. Yet, it was a fire that badly damaged the Prospect Street Church that brought about the union of the two. No doubt time was also a healing factor. The united churches were now called "The First Presbyterian Church of Alliance." When the consolidation took place in 1893, the old Prospect Street building was deserted. The Westminster Church building was remodeled and enlarged at a cost of \$4,000.00 to house the united congregation. The remodeling expenses were shared by both churches, while they met in the meantime in the Old Sourbeck Opera House standing on the site of the present Knights of Pythias' Building.

#### Growth Under Dr. S. W. McFadden (1895-1898)

The merged churches extended a call to Rev. S. Willis McFadden in 1895. He accepted the challenge. The church was in great need of good leadership because of months of "supplies" and "candidates" creating a loss of interest.

Dr. McFadden was a graduate of Franklin College with further study at Princeton and Western Theological Seminaries. He served, besides the Alliance Church, the Presbyterian Church in Warren, Ohio; Sioux City, Iowa; Spokane, Washington; the Knoxville Church in Pittsburgh, Pa.; Westminster Church in Springfield, Illinois; and the First Church in Peekskill, New York.

The youthfulness, enthusiasm, energy and personality of this young man brought new life and spirit into the church. Young and old alike were drawn into willing cooperation. It was soon evident, with an increase of about three hundred members, that there existed a need for a more commodious church. Yet, with the indebtedness of the remodeling still on the books, the thoughts of a larger structure were quite out of the question.

The church continued to grow under Dr. McFadden until there were 540 church members with a Sunday School about as large. The current expenses of the church amounted to almost \$5000 and the benevolence contribution reached almost an unbelievable figure for that day of \$1700.

During the growth of the church under Dr. McFadden, the congregation filled the pews and additional chairs had to be put in the aisles. A member nicknamed "Apple" Williams (because he was the owner of an apple-storage place) lived a few houses from the church. He and his wife remained in their home until the services started and the people were seated; then they came with their own chairs and placed them in any available spot.

Dr. McFadden was considered a master in oratory and sermonizing. According to an old diary of one of the faithful church members, on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1897, Dr. McFadden read the church financial report. After announcing the amount of indebtedness, he made an earnest appeal to cancel the debt. Many gave liberally until nearly all of the amount was raised.

It was with deep regret that the congregation released Dr. McFadden to accept a larger field in 1898. He left a host of friends who wished him well, as he became a recognized leader and pastor in the Presbyterian World.

#### Dr. Robert A. Carnahan (1899-1912)

With the resignation of Dr. McFadden in 1898, the church underwent the usual trying period with supplies and candidates. Finally, in June 1899, the congregation found its new leader in Dr. Carnahan. It was said—"Few ministers have ever so won their way into the hearts and lives of the congregation as did Dr. Carnahan. Perhaps Dr. Carnahan's best remembered trait is his 'human-ness.' Little children gathered about him like 'bees after honey.' Each Sunday one little youngster would be chosen by Dr. Carnahan to put his Sunday School money in its department's offering plate. Much competition reigned for the privilege of doing it, for they all loved him and longed for his favorable recognition. He was fond of jokes and possessed a keen memory for names. His sympathy and understanding made him a favorite with his parishoners, young and old alike."

#### The Sanctuary

The old building soon became outgrown and, with the new spirit of enthusiasm in the congregation, there was need of erecting larger quarters. This "spark" caught fire and on a cold January night (January 1, 1901) the First Presbyterian Church held an important business session when definite action to appoint a Building committee was taken, and detailed arrangements for purchasing a new location were made. The property on the south-east corner of Market and Linden Avenue, formerly the site of the Roman Catholic Church, was purchased from Mrs. Clara J. Burnett. The Building Committee consisted of J. H. Sharer, A. B. Love, W. H. Morgan, John Bracher, J. W. Hull and Dr. Carnahan. The next day the men met at the City Savings Bank and organized as a "Church Corporation" with Dr. Carnahan as clerk and W. W. Gilson as Treasurer. It was at this time that A. B. Love presented five twenty dollar gold pieces as his first payment on the new church as an impetus for others. It was A. B. Love's devotion to his church that made him in his unassuming manner an inspiration to the other church members.

On June 22, 1902, another congregational meeting was held at which time final architectural plans and financial methods were presented. Enthusiasm was at a "high pitch" when Mrs. Mary J. Sourbeck, President of the Ladies' Aid Society, presented the first pledge of \$1,000. Other subscriptions followed until \$11,000 was pledged that very night. With a gift of a thousand dollars each from Mr. and Mrs. William H. Morgan, the committee felt justified in awarding the contract to Mr. S. Joliet for a cost of \$24,300. This amount did not include the organ, windows and furnishings which amounted to about \$20,000. Mr. O. E. Pfouts was secured to oversee the project. It took much patience and devotion to collect the funds. The corner stone was laid June 3, 1903. The pastor of the "Old Stone Church" of Cleveland, Rev. Andrew B. Meldrum, D.D., gave a most eloquent address at the ceremonies. Dr. Carnahan in laying the corner stone said, "I lay this corner stone for the worship of God and the advancement of His Kingdom, for the glory of Jesus Christ and the increase of His Church, for the blessing of all men and the truth unto their children."

As the building progressed, it was necessary for the appointing of a committee for the interior planning and for the furniture. Those appointed were Mrs. W. W.

Cantine, Mrs. L. W. Ballard, Mrs. I. H. Rhodes and Messrs. L. E. Miller and W. W. Gibson. Three beautiful memorial windows were given: the Tiffany window above the pulpit showing "Christ Blessing Little Children," in memory of Mary Louise, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Morgan; the Ladies Aid Window and the Women's Missionary memorial window, in memory of faithful members who had ended their earthly lives.

The organ was given by the philanthropist, Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The pulpit set was a gift of Mr. H. P. McIntosh of Cleveland in memory of his sister, Mrs. Agnes Cleland, and the Bible was given by Mrs. Agnes Cleland's son. J, H. Sharer and son donated the choir chairs. The Baptismal font was given by the young Ladies' Missionary Society.

Great was the rejoicing and thanksgiving when Sunday, Dec. 11, 1904, was set for the dedication of the new edifice. Many friends and members of the church gathered for this big occasion. Dr. J. S. Grimes, former pastor, returned for a part in the celebration. Dr. William Hudnut of Youngstown represented formally the Mahoning Presbytery. In the Building Committee's records it is written: "Upon this memorable winter day, in the sunlight that was streaming through the beautiful window's of God's house, with antiphonal songs welling up from overjoyed hearts, with preaching and prayer, our new Church was dedicated to God." It was not debt free, however, and it was a period of six years before the congregation could burn the mortgage. This was accomplished by the congegation's cooperation with a "Boosters" Committee. The date was set to clear everything. Anticipation ran high and it required both morning and evening services to complete the task. The Mortgage hung suspended from a wire over the pulpit with a placard reading, "Shall It Be Burned Tonight?" Mayor E. P. Speidel and Dr. William McMasteres of Mount Union College gave congratulatory speeches. The exciting moment came when Mr. A. B. Love lighted the mortgage. The whole audience broke forth in singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

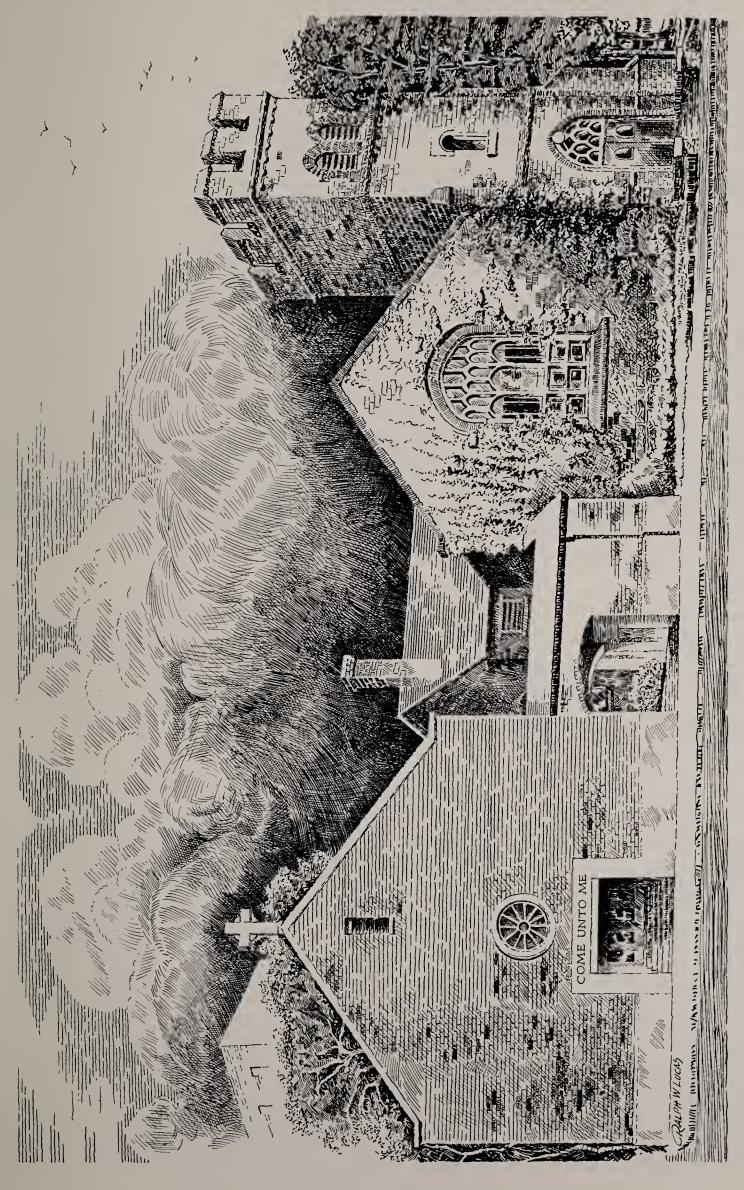
This was almost the final accomplishment of Dr. Carnahan. It was about a year after this that he became seriously ill and passed from "the scene of his mortal triumphs" in January 1912. This noble life left a bereft, leaderless church, but the fondest memories lived on.

#### Rev. Rudolph Stoll (1913-1914)

In 1913, the Rev. Rudolph Stoll came to the Alliance Church for a period of two years. He was an eloquent speaker and was called by many city organizations to appear on programs. He was particularly adapted to Young People's Work. He resigned to take up youth work in New York State in 1914.

#### Dr. Frank J. Bryson (1915-1920)

In 1915 Dr. Frank J. Bryson was called to the church. His qualities of sincerity and geniality won him friends inside and outside the church. He was a genuine scholar and orator. Some of his sermons "won him recognition as one of



the best speakers the city ever had, some of his sermons being classics." The Church expanded its program under Dr. Bryson's leadership. He was responsible for the Church's Honor Roll that included the names of seventy-three young men who served our country in World War I. Of these, Kenneth Graham and Francis Williams were killed in action in France, and Floyd Johnson died on board the S. S. Pennsylvania.

Because of the rising cost of living and scarcity of homes, it was necessary for the church to purchase a manse. As there was no appropriate property available near the church, the house at 70 W. Cambridge Street was purchased.

In 1920, the First Presbyterian Church of Allegheny deprived Alliance of its pastor. Dr. Bryson left a regretful congregation, for he had won many friends in the church and city. He has returned on numerous occasions. During the seventy-fifth anniversary Dr. Bryson and Dr. McFadden shared honors.

#### Dr. John L. Tait (1921-1927)

Dr. John L. Tait came to the Alliance Church in 1921 after working with the Y.M.C.A. in connection with the Armed Forces in England and France. While in the city, Dr. Tait was active in the Masonic Order, American Legion and the Rotary Club. From 1910 to 1920 the city practically doubled in population because of the fact that Alliance was in vital war industry. It was evident that church expansion was soon to be a necessity. The decision was made in 1923 to remain a "down-town" church and to purchase the Teeters property on the East. It was thought a connecting hallway and a few alterations would accommodate some of the Chuch's activities. The property was purchased for \$19,500 with an additional \$5000 for repairs. The vision for the future was to erect a new building in keeping with the main edifice. Dr. Tait resigned in the spring of 1927 to accept a call to a new Presbyterian Church in Bexley Park, Columbus.

#### Dr. John V. Stephens, Jr. (1927---)

The Pulpit Committee of the Church busied itself and is to be commended for doing a splendid work. The Committee deserves a lasting thanks for bringing to the church Dr. John V. Stephens, Jr. He and his wife brought new spirit and life to our church along with their warmth of friendship. They came to us in October 1927 as a real blessing to the church.

John Vant Stephens, Jr., was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky. His father was pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In his childhood his father became professor of Church History in the Theological Seminary of Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. Later he accepted a similar position in Lane Theological Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio. After Mr. Stephens' graduation from University School in Cincinnati, he returned to Tennessee, where he took his college work at Maryville College, returning to Cincinnati to enter Lane Theological Seminary in preparation for the ministry.



Church and Parish House (North-west View)



Parish House and Church (North-east View)

His first and only charge before coming to Alliance was the Clifford Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, where he served faithfully and efficiently for nine years. He was a recognized leader in the Cincinnati Presbytery, being made chairman of several important committees. In the Synod of Ohio he has served as chairman of the Committee on Christian Education; President of the Board of Trustees of the Westminster Foundations and Moderator of the Synod.

During Dr. Stephens' college days he met as a class mate Ruth Carson, the daughter and granddaughter of Presbyterian ministers. While she was still very young her father died. Later the widowed mother and three children established their home in Maryville, Tennessee where the children attended secondary schools and later Maryville College. It was there that Dr. and Mrs. Stephens planned to be married. Following completion of Dr. Stephens' seminary work they were married and accepted a church. It was then "team work" for Christian service in the Clifford Presbyterian Church in Cinicinnati. No wonder the records give the trebling of the membership of the Cincinnati church during their years there.

Dr. Stephens accepted the Alliance call as a real challenge and in the years of his ministry one can truthfully say, it was a task well done. These twenty-seven years of his untiring efforts include many accomplishments.

#### **Building Program Completed**

When Dr. Stephens came he had a great vision. He could see in his "dream" a beautiful Parish House and the reorganized Christian Educational Program for it. He saw the possibilities for greater service in the reorganization of the Women's Work. How these changes formulated slowly but surely! Yet, it was not without prayer, guidance, cooperation and plenty of Dr. Stephens' own efforts. lems were many and the tasks not easy, for the Church's Teeters property, the "Annex," still had a remaining debt of \$17,600 and the congregation was disheartened. The first plans for the Parish House were drawn in 1929. Then the depression came! Plans were again revised in 1937 and again in 1949. The first campaign for the Parish House Funds was in October 1937. Financial drives followed from time to time. The second World War not only delayed the raising of funds, but there were government restrictions that made building impossible. By November, 1949, the "big" drive for the Parish House Funds under the capable leadership of Mr. Robert Harry and Mr. C. J. Rodman was successful in pledging the final \$100,000. To go over the "top" was a great thrill for the minister and congregation. Mr. Robert Harry was chosen as chairman of the Building Committee and work began. The ground-breaking for the Parish House was on October 2, 1949. The corner stone was laid on May 7, 1950. The Parish House was dedicated on December 9, 1951. What enthusiasm and rejoicing accompanied each of these occasions with special programs! The complete cost of the Parish House, including furnishings, was about \$180,000.



New Chancel of the Sanctuary



The Stephens Youth Chapel

#### Memorial Chancel, Organ and Chimes

Another project was the Memorial Chancel in the Sanctury. It was necessary to make room for the Youth Choirs and to beautify the old church in order to make a better transition with the new Parish House. The Chancel remodeling was made possible by gifts in memory of the boys who died in World War I and II, and by gifts in memory of certain faithful members of the church. The cost was \$18,000. This did not include the new pipe organ given by the C. J. Rodman family in memory of Mr. Rodman's father, the Reverend Henry Herman Rodman. This magnificent new organ was dedicated on December 28, 1949. The organ was dedicated with a brilliant concert by Prof. Wayne Fisher, concert organist and a member of the Faculty of the Cincinnati College of Music. Few people know that the organ is not only an Alliance product, built by Hillgreen-Lane and Company, but the instrument has three manuals and pedal, 40 stops, 25 ranks, and 1610 pipes. What a fitting and appropriate memorial to Rev. Henry Herman Rodman, a man who had consecrated his many talents to God and Christian service!

As one enters the Sanctuary by the tower entrance, his eyes fall upon a bronze plaque with these words, "To add melody to life and to bring music to the souls of men the Carillonic Bells in this church are given in loving memory of Mrs. Charles Young Kay by her daughter, Mrs. William P. Akins—Easter 1948." This memorial gift of twenty-five bells has added melody to our lives, and the memorial organ, in the skilled hands of LeRoy Abegglen, our faithful organist for some forty years, has brought music to the souls of men as they have gathered to worship God.

#### Christian Education Program

In the reorganizing of the education program of our church, it was vital to have a Director of Christian Education. Our first director was Miss Albertine Bischoff, who came in the fall of 1930 and remained with us three years. She not only helped lay the foundations for our program, but also inspired our people with a zeal for missions.

Miss Dorothy Gates came to us in September 1940 and remained a year. Many remember her for the beautiful "White-Gift Christmas" setting in the Chancel.

Miss Miriam Jones served from September 1943 to June, 1948. She was lovingly called "Mim" and in her five years with us endeared herself to the hearts of the youth of the church. "Mim" left to accept a call to one of the largest churches in Pittsburgh, where she is still serving.

Miss Laila Ostrom came to us August, 1948, and remained with us till August, 1953. Many were the abilities of Laila. She was talented in handcraft arts, program planning, story-telling, photography, etc. What amazed the men of the congregation was that she possessed a mechanical skill. Rarely was she stumped by "puzzling problems" with the movie projector. With her keen sense of humor and



Primary Department Chapel



Eastminster Hall

interesting chuckle and her devout sincerity, she soon became a sympathetic confident of many in the congregation. It was with deep regret that she left us, but the church could not stand in her way in her desire to further her education. Her leaving was a loss to the entire community as well as the church, for she had been active in civic affairs.

Miss Margaret Ronaldson came to us from the East in August, 1953. She has brought enthusiasm, energy and a willingness to be of service and, in spite of her being with us only a year, she has already laid the foundation stones for a successful career. Her radiant smile and personality have helped make her a leader, not only in our church, but also in the community at large. Her abilities have already been discovered as being vital to the spiritual life of the church and community.

#### The Church Office and New Manse

Through the years the church has been fortunate in having faithful and conscientious secretaries in the church office. Among those who have served are:

Mrs. D. D. Farr (Margaret Woods)

Mrs. Arthur Kitt (Lucille Woods)

Mrs. George Yanny (Phoebe Pearson)

Mrs. Kenneth McFall (Dorothy Vernon)

Mrs. Earl F. Dewey (Mary Ellen Connor)

Mrs. Ray Mainwaring (Pauline Dietrich)

Mrs. William Sassaman (Beatrice McGrew)

Mrs. Nick Hampu, Jr. (Margaret Stiffler)

Mrs. Donald Lanham (Erma Blazer)

These persons have made a large contribution to the work of the church.

A new manse was purchased by the church in March 1951, located at 1090 Kingsway. The total cost of the Manse, with improvements, was about \$22,500. The house is well located and well adapted for use as a manse. The church may well be proud of this new home for its minister and his family.

#### Men and Women Organize

The accomplishment of the reorganization of the Women's Work of the church has proven most successful. The women have become more of an integral part of a working church. This story is told later on in this history.

The men have always played an important role in the history of this church. They have carried on their work under various names and types of organization through the years. They now work through the organized Bible classes and through "The Men O' First," which is the local chapter of the National Council of Presbyterian Men. This story will also be found in the latter part of this history.



The Pulpit and Chancel

#### Yesterday

Looking back over the twenty-seven years of the ministry of Dr. Stephens, the following facts and figures may be of interest: members received into the church, 2,279; sermons preached, 1,241; services conducted, 1,551; various talks and addresses, 1,525; funerals conducted, 743; weddings performed, 410; personal conferences with members, thousands (no record has been kept); pastoral calls, about 35,000; miles traveled in pastoral and church work, over 300,000.

The financial report of the church for the past twenty-seven years is also interesting, revealing the loyalty of the members to their church—

Received for current expenses\$	563,588.00
Received for benevolences	237,524.00
Received for building purposes	265,725.00
	-((0)
Total receipts for all purposes\$1	1,066,837.00

These things could not have been accomplished by Dr. Stephens alone. He has been encouraged and inspired by the many who have followed his leadership and upheld his hands. Dr. Stephens has served selflessly; he has served with fidelity and devotion. No task has been too great. Both Dr. and Mrs. Stephens have endeared themselves to the hearts and homes of our congregation. Our church is fortunate to have had their devoted spiritual leadership.

#### Tomorrow

Looking to tomorrow, the portals of a new century open before us. As we enter the second century of our history, and face the challenge of the years ahead, it is with faith and expectation. Inspired by the toils and sacrifices of the builders of yesterday, we who love and work for our Church today, challenge the builders of tomorrow, that they may understand the privilege within their responsibilities.

Our Church is a sacred trust, received from our fathers, which we leave to successive generations, a stronger and better Church, we pray, because we have lived, loved and served.

"I love Thy Church, O God:
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

"For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end."

#### The Historical Committee

Mrs. Clark Shreve, Chairman
Dr. B. F. Stanton
Mr. Herbert W. Pritchard

Mr. Ralph Lucas Mr. Willis Magrath

Mrs. Nick Hampu, Jr.

The Centennial Committee and members of the church are deeply indebted to Mrs. Clark Shreve who has given so graciously of her time and talent in the preparation and writing of this Centennial History. We wish to acknowledge our indebtedness also to all members of the Historical Committee and the many persons who have supplied information, pictures and books, to make this history possible.

We wish to acknowledge also the cooperation of Mr. Ralph Lucas who made the sketches of the church; the work of the Dimit Brothers who took most of the pictures; the help of Mr. Arthur Rickard, President of the Canton Engraving and Electrotyping Company, in making the cuts and engravings used; and the advice and guidance of the Saffell-Hively Printing Company, publishers of the history.

#### **Contributors**

The following persons have also contributed to the materials in this history: Willis Magrath, Miss Mabel Hartzell, Mrs. Fred Donaldson, Mr. N. C. Fetters, Mr. Walter Ellett, Mrs. J. E. Vaughn, Mr. Emil Tanner and Mr. Frank Taylor.





George and Annie Russell

The names of "Uncle" George and "Aunt" Annie Russell, as they were lovingly called, cannot be forgotten in our Church History. Their Christian lives were truly examples of a radiant triumph of faith.

George was born in 1841. Not knowing the month and day of his birth, he chose Lincoln's birthday as his. During the Civil War, George, who was no doubt a slave, was picked up by Union soldiers and did his bit in the war. It was President McKinley who made it possible for George to receive a government pension for his services. He was brought to Alliance by Mr. Hogue.

George met Annie, an escaped slave, born in 1850, who worked in a hotel in Salem. They chose to go through life together and built a truly happy home.

George was the custodian of the old Prospect Church for years and he and Annie looked upon the task as a privilege. Both tithed their money and it is said that when George received \$1200.00 in "back" government pension, the following Sunday he joyfully placed \$120.00 on the offering plate. It has been told that George often said, "The Lord must be given the best." It was no doubt this philosophy that prompted him either to get new money or to clean and shine the old money every Saturday, ready for the Sunday's offering plate. At another time, he gave a gift of \$500.00 to the choir.

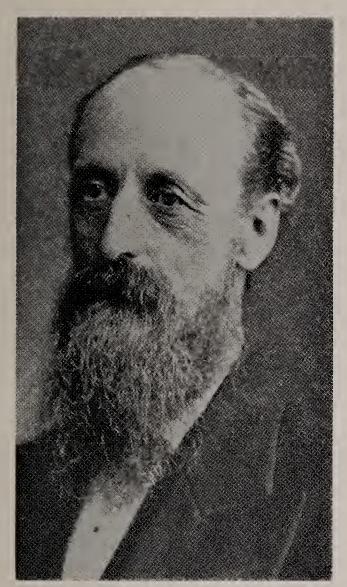
It has also been said that George's love for children was displayed when he taught almost one hundred children to play croquet.

George and Annie's consecrated lives radiated beyond the church into the community as a whole. When George died in April, 1906, they not only had a church funeral for him; but the business offices in Alliance closed in honor of him.

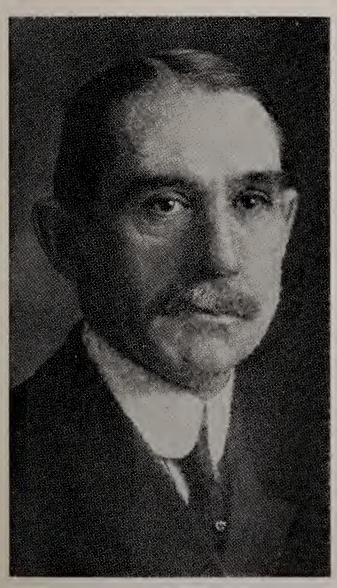
Annie outlived George by twenty-one years. She lived out on West Ely where there were no transportation facilities at that time; but she was always in her place at Sunday School on time. One Sunday morning she was asked by John D. Boyd, the Sunday School Superintendent, how she could get to Sunday School so early. She replied, "Johnnie, when I get up in the morning, I get ready and then I pray. What's the use of praying when you aren't ready?" These sentences were a sermon not to be forgotten. "Aunt" Annie died February 27, 1927, but her living sermons and consecrated prayers are still memories for many who knew her.

# **Ministers Who Have Served Our Church**

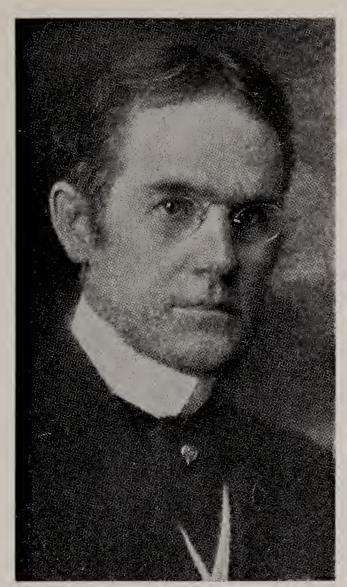
Rev. Robert McCollough	1854				
Rev. A. B. Maxwell	1856-1858				
Rev. Mr. Speer	1858-1859				
Rev. Mr. Livingstone	1860				
Rev. William McKay	1861				
Rev. David Miller	1862-1867				
Rev. Daniel W. Townsend	1867-1869				
Rev. Joseph S. Grimes	1869-1885				
Rev. David D. Waugh	1886				
Rev. Hiram P. Barnes	1887-1891				
Rev. C. Delano Jeffries	1891-1894				
Rev. Samuel W. McFadden	1895-1898				
Rev. Robert A. Carnahan	1899-1912				
Rev. Rudolph Carl Stoll	1913-1914				
Rev. D. C. Grover	1914				
Rev. Frank J. Bryson	1915-1920				
Rev. John L. Tait	1921-1927				
Rev. John V. Stephens, Jr.	1927-				
Directors of Christian Education					
Miss Albertine Bischoff	1930-1933				
Miss Dorothy Gates	1940-1941				
Miss Miriam Jones	1943-1948				
Miss Laila Ostrom	1948-1953				
Miss Margaret Ronaldson	1953-				



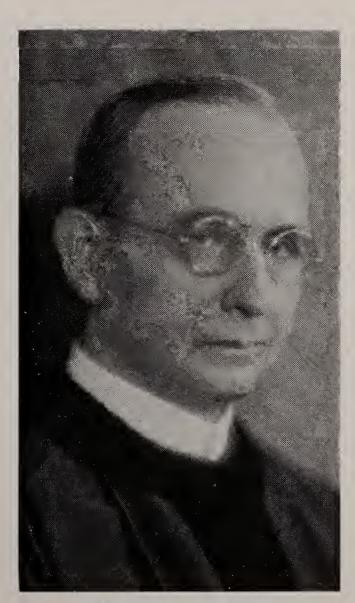
Dr. Joseph S. Grimes



Dr. Robert A. Carnahan



Dr. Samuel W. McFadden



Dr. Frank J. Bryson



Miss Laila Ostrom



Miss Miriam Jones



Miss Margaret Ronaldson

#### In Christian Service

The First Presbyterian Church is indeed proud to record that some of her sons have heard the call to enter full-time Christian service.

Clifford J. Shumaker, graduating from McCormick Theological Seminary, has held pastorates in Lisbon, North Dakota; Two Ridges, and Cross Creek, Steubenville, Ohio; and Polson, Montana. He was Moderator of the Synod of Montana in 1949, and was awarded a Twenty-five Year National Missions Pin in October, 1953. Since 1940 he has been serving in the Department of Sunday School Missions and Mobile Ministries with headquarters at Stanford, Montana.

William B. McLaughlin graduated from Alliance High School in 1927, and from Mount Union College in 1932. He received his Master of Arts degree from the University of New Mexico in 1953. For several years he taught at the Allison-James School, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and since 1949 has been a teacher at the Wasatch Academy, Mount Pleasant, Utah.

Asher B. Case was born in Hayesville, Ohio, and graduated from Wooster College in 1922. After spending a year as Principal of the Magnolia High School, he began his work as a missionary in Siam, serving as a teacher in the Bankok Christian School for Boys, and later in the Lampsng School for Boys. Reverend Case and his wife, Ruth, are now doing evangelistic work among the lepers of Siam, (Thailand) under the direction of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, with headquarters at Maha Sara-Kam, Thailand.

William S. Yanney, a native of Alliance, an Eagle Scout, graduated from Alliance High School, and from Wooster College, with honors in Greek. He served one and one-half years in Korea, with the Army of Occupation. He is now a Senior at the Princeton Seminary. During his second year at Princeton, he was awarded the Benjamin Stanton prize in Old Testament History. Mrs. Yanney is the former Lois Cross of Perry, New York. They have three daughters.

Walter Massey was born in Alliance. After graduation from the high school he attended Mount Union College and Wooster College, receiving his B. A. degree from Wooster. His theological seminary work was taken at McCormick where he graduated in 1929. Following a six year pastorate at Clyde, Ohio, he was commissioned as Chaplain in the Reserve Corps of the U. S. Army. He was soon called to active service. During World War II he served as Regimental Chaplain in the European theatre. He retired from active service at the close of the war with the rank of Major. He is now doing supply work and is active in the Chaplain Reserve.



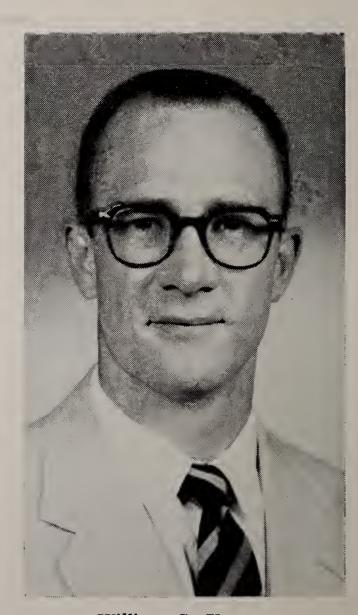
Rev. Clifford J. Shumaker



William B. McLaughlin



Rev. Asher B. Case



William S. Yanney

# Duties and Functions of Governing Bodies of the Presbyterian Church

By Dr. B. F. Stanton

Any great body of people organized for religious or civil purposes must have a plan of structure and procedure. In 1729 the Confession of Faith was adopted and amended at various times between 1788 and 1903. Says the Confession of Faith: "Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence, do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and his will, which is necessary unto salvation: therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal himself, and to declare (that) his will unto his church" . . . . . . . In civil bodies such a declaration for the government and procedure of the same is usually referred to as a constitution; in religious organizations it is commonly a Confession of Faith. In both instances they represent the fundamental beliefs and basic concepts on which the organization stands.

No organization is selfdirecting. Whatever it does, it accomplishes through God inspired men and women. Today, the church is a highly organized body. In the United States the Presbyterian Church has around two and one-half million members. Add to this another million to make up all Presbyterian bodies. Their work is made effective by delegating certain responsibilities to "boards" which are designed for certain definite purposes. These today are world-wide. Moving from the local to the Presbyterian church at large, we have local, presbyterial, synodical and the juridiction of the General Assembly, the governing body for the Church in its nation-wide aspects.

#### Ruling Elders

The ordinary and perpetual officers in the Presbyterian Church are Pastors, Ruling Elders and Deacons. These latter are regarded as the representatives of the people.

The ruling elders being representatives of the people are chosen by them to exercise government and discipline, in conjunction with pastors or ministers. They have a special responsibility for the spiritual development and welfare of the congregation and Church. They counsel with the pastor in matters relating to the well-being of the Church. They meet at stated times or at the call of the pastor. The Session is the governing and advisory body of the Church as it relates to the worship service and the spiritual activities of the Church. It is made up of men and women who have a deep concern for the Church and its mission in the World.

#### Board of Deacons

In the early Church is an account of seven deacons being appointed to look after the material affairs of the Church. Those who were doing the preaching, such as Peter, James and later Paul, found they did not have time to function as preachers and teachers and at the same time meet the material demands made upon them. They, therefore, appointed of their number, "seven men of good report, full of the spirit and wisdom."

A particular duty of the deacons is to look after the poor, and in the early Church, to distribute among them the collections which may be raised for their use. To them also may be committed the management of the temporal affairs of the Church. The

Presbyterian Church has traditionally followed the principle of democracy in that the Church is governed by congregational, presbyterial and synodical assemblies. These assemblies are without civil jurisdiction nor do they inflict any civil penalties. Their power is "wholly moral or spiritual, and that only ministerial and declarative." They may require obedience to the laws of Christ and exclude the disobedient and disorderly from the privileges of the church.

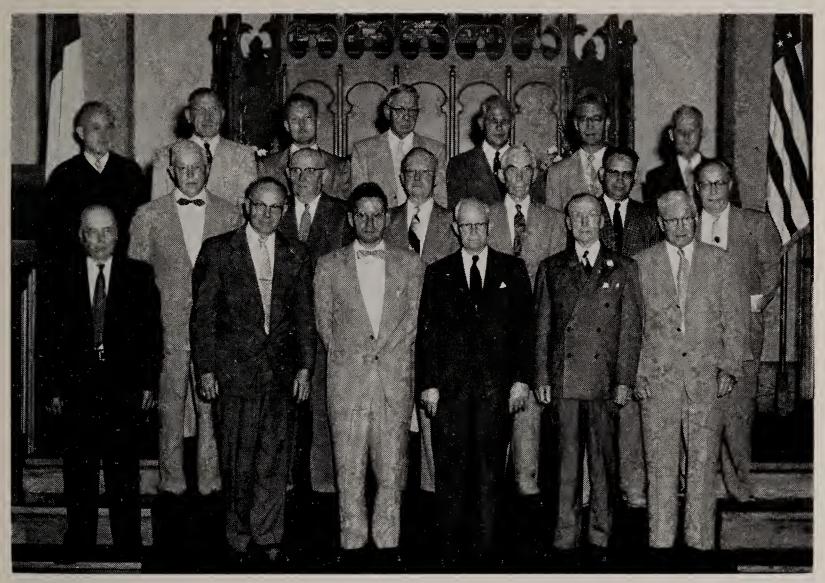
#### Board of Trustees

The Church is a corporation and in modern times has a responsible body of men and women whose particular concern is the property of the Church. The corporation as such did not exist in the early days of the Church but came into being a few centuries ago. Therefore, we do not read of "corporations" and "trustees" in the primitive Christian Church. However, today it is a general policy of the Presbyterian Church to have a Board of Trustees. Their duties are limited to the local Church of which they are officers.

#### Board of Ushers

We find no reference in Scripture to functionaries known as Ushers. We do not wonder at this for the local synagogue of the Jews was small and did not call for the duties of ushers. In recent centuries congregations have become of such magnitude that ushers have become a prime necessity to the comfort and orderly distribution of the audiences. The service is more impressive when conducted in every way in a quiet and reverent atmosphere.

The principal duty, therefore, of a body of ushers is to greet the congregation on its arrival in a friendly and cordial manner and to assist the people in securing suitable seats.



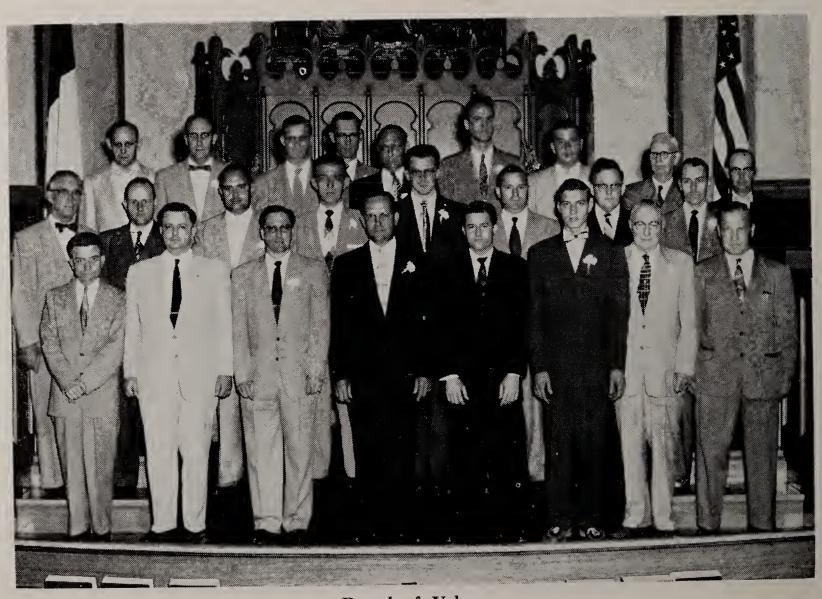
Ruling Elders or Session



Board of Deacons



**Board of Trustees** 



**Board of Ushers** 





**Board of Christian Education** 



Nursery Department



The Kindergarten



Primary Department



**Primary Class** 



Junior Department



Junior Class



Junior High Department



Senior High Department



Young People's Class



Young Adult (Olds) Class



Weaver Bible Class



Friendship Circle Class



Weman's Bible Class



Men's (Stanton) Class



Executive Board of Woman's Society



Officers and Leaders of Men's Council

#### The Story of the Women's Work

by Mrs. Nick Hampu, Jr.

The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the First Presbyterian Church of Alliance, Ohio, was formed in 1887 for the purpose of "cultivating a deeper interest in Home and Foreign Missionary work and to enlist as many as possible in this department of Christian Benevolence." This group met the first Wednesday of each month and dues were to be ten cents per member per month. The officers were Rev. and Mrs. Hiram P. Barnes, President; Mrs. George Ickes, Vice President; Mrs. E. W. Cantine, Secretary; and Mrs. E. Bennett, Treasurer. The first meeting was held on May 18, 1887 with a membership of 26.

In 1905 the constitution of the Society was revised providing for more officers and a broader scope of work. In addition to the four officers named above, there was named an Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer of Contingent Fund, Treasurer of the New Church Building Fund, Secretary of Literature, Secretary of Temperance and Organist. An interesting change in the constitution provided for a fine of fifty cents to be imposed on each member who failed to take the part assigned to her or provide a substitute.

As time went by there were several more revisions in the constitution and in January of 1941 the organization became known as the Woman's Missionary Society.

In September of 1918 the Young Ladies Missionary Society was formed. Later, in June of 1924 the name was changed to The Hull Auxiliary, in honor of Mrs. J. W. Hull who organized the group. Beginning with only thirteen members, the Hull Auxiliary in time became a power for the missionary cause. The spirit of Mrs. Hull lives on today in the zeal for missions in our church.

The Ladies Aid Society was formed May 7, 1901 for the purpose of "promoting the social and financial interests of the church, among the ladies." The aim of this organization was to take care of the local needs of the church. When the men were unable to see their way clear to purchase new carpets or draperies or dishes, this group of women set to work to provide the money.

The Westminster Guild, a society for young women of the church, was organized on June 21, 1938. The group as a whole met once a month. Three small circles were formed which met in the homes once a month. The object of the smaller groups being to enable the girls to get better acquainted. This group brought together the young mothers and young business and professional women who had a common interest in doing something for their church. Their first achievement was the purchase of furniture for the Chapel. Their program combined social and missionary work.

On June 26, 1941 the women of the church banded together under one organization which they chose to call The Women's Congregational Society. Dr. and Mrs. John V. Stephens, Jr. were responsible for this great step forward in the women's work. The three existing organizations, The Woman's Missionary Society, The Ladies Aid and the Westminster Guild, joined hands and hearts to further the Kingdom of God through Christian fellowship, Spiritual development and service.

As has been true all through the years, the women have contributed much to the local work, by beautitying the surroundings, helping with building funds and answering the call for service in many ways.

The first budget of the Women's Congregational Society was for a total of \$1500.00 which was to be raised by ten Circles. The budget adopted by the Society for 1954 totals \$4,440.87, to be raised by 11 circles.

The same problems face us today as those faced by the early organizations — how to interest more women in the great task of missions. An extensive program of information and education has been presented in recent years expressing the theory that "if we know we care and if we care we share."

## Council of Presbyterian Men

by Dr. B. F. Stanton

For a number of years the conviction was slowly taking shape that the men in the Church were not assuming as large a place in the activities of its work as they might, and would, if better organized. As a matter of fact, they gave financial support, but many of the features of religious work were left to the women. It might be remarked too, that within the past fifteen or twenty years, there has been a great expansion in the work the women have undertaken. This fact made the position of Men's Work in the Church more conspicious, whether because of the little they did or because the Church became aware of the possibilities residing in the male membership of the organization.

Furthermore, the period of war which broke upon the Church and the world at large from 1914 to 1950, and even present today, prompted the Church to think seriously about its mission in the world and what could be done to save our civilization from decline. The men of the Church realized there was opening a new field to to them, a field in which they could serve God and the Church in a larger way. With this growing conviction the time was opportune for a move in the direction of an organized body of men to assist in promoting the spiritual life of the Church; the men responded.

In the summer of 1936, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church met in Syracuse, New York. Among the many activities of the Session, there was held a men's banquet which was attended by around 500 men. The speaker was William Mather Lewis, President at that time of Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. His address was most inspiring and was a challenge to the men of the Church to enter more largely into the work of the Great Commission given us twenty centuries ago.

Today we have a Council of Presbyterian Men in Presbytery of Mahoning and likewise in our own local Church. Other Churches have done likewise under the general leadership of the Church at large. Not until 1946 did the General Assembly

take definite steps to organize the National Council. A call was sent out to the Presbyterian Churches to send delegates to a meeting in Chicago in February 1948. It was the privilege of the writer to attend the meeting in 1949 which was helpful and inspiring. Alliance, be it said, has had one or more delegates to these meetings since their beginning. They are well attended and present strong programs to the men. In turn these men, or delegates, carry the general message back to their people.

In large measure Alliance and likewise the churches of this Presbytery received their inspiration to organize the Presbyterian Men from the meeting at Syracuse in 1936. It happened that the writer and several others from this Presbytery were Commissioners to the Assembly. We were so impressed by the men at the banquet and the address by Dr. Lewis that we came home with a resolution to organize the men of our Presbytery. This we did, and we have had a going concern ever since. The meetings are held twice a year, usually in October and April or May. The organization has sought to bring able men before the group, and The Alliance Presbyterian Church has been interested in the men's work on four levels. Our Men of First with Richard White as President; Men's Council of Mahoning Presbytery, with Mr. William Hazlett as President; and also Vice President of the Men of Ohio Synod; through delegates sent to the annual meeting of Presbyterian Men, our Church has taken its place with good rank in this movement.

The Men of First likewise have a Bible class which meets each Sabbath morning. For more than thirty years this class has stood together well. We are proud to claim four physicians and surgeons in the class. Though not large in numbers, the men have manifested a good interest. At present the Class is fortunate to have Dr. Keith Noble as its President. As the years have passed many of our group have gone to their Eternal Home. The class seeks to cooperate with the Men of First in the activities this group sponsors.

So it may be said that the Men's Movement in the Church, though not spectacular has carried on its work seeking to promote the welfare of the Church, to stabilize the thinking of our day, to help in building a better world, and to enrich the spiritual life of our people.



Mrs. Sloan, Mrs. Morgan, Mr. Abegglen



Choir Recessional

#### Church Music

Leroy Abegglen is a native of Alliance. He started his organ playing while he was a High School lad. His music career started under the supervision of Miss Catherine Quinn. Later he studied music at Mt. Union College. He also studied under two noted organists of Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Richard Keys Biggs, of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Mr. Edwin Arthur Kraft of the Trinity Cathedral.

Leroy has shown his love and devotion for his church during more than forty years as organist. World War I interrupted his organist's career, for he served thirteen months over-seas for "Uncle Sam" with the Thirty-second Division. While serving in France, he was chosen one out of hundreds to go to the "School of Music" at Chaumont, France, the General Headquarters of the A.E.F. This was a rare experience, for he had the opportunity of seeing President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, General Pershing, the Queen of Belgium and the Prince of Wales.

When he was asked for his favorite hymn, he was hesitant because he loves so many of them. These are a few of his favorites: "O Love That Wilt not Let Me Go," "Fairest Lord Jesus," "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," and "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine." Leroy's hobbies are music, swimming and gardening.

We are also fortunate in the leadership of our three choirs with Mrs. Robert Sloan directing the Chancel and Youth Choirs, and Mrs. Oswald Morgan directing the Junior Choir.

#### Mr. E. J. Morris

No Church History would be complete without including some of the outstanding people of their day. Mr. E. J. Morris' contribution to our church's History still lives on in the hearts of those who were privileged to have known him. His love for his church was manifested by the fourteen long years he conducted our Church Choir without pay, many times paying the choir expenses out of his own pocket.

Those who sang with him and for him tell of the great inspiration he was. He attracted many of the city's best musicians and built the choir to be second to none in the city. Our church suffered a great loss at the death of Mr. Morris in 1907.



The Chancel Choir



The Youth Choir



The Junior Choir



The Memorial Chancel

The Memorial Chancel in the Sanctuary was made possible in part by gifts of the church members in memory of the eight boys of our church who gave their lives in the two world wars—Kenneth Graham, Floyd Johnson, Francis Williams, James B. Flood, Israel Garcia, John Pavalescu, Russell Swearingen, Jr., and Clifford Tomer.

Other gifts for the Memorial Chancel were in memory of faithful members of the church who had rendered a consecrated service here. These gifts were as follows:

Mrs. Charles Capper—In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Whitacre Arter

Mr. and Mrs. Hilburn Blakley—In memory of Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Crawford

Dr. J. Fred Lembright—In memory of Daniel Frederick Lembright

Mr. A. P. Rickard-In memory of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Rickard

Mr. H. G. Robertson and Dr. A. D. Robertson—In memory of Alexander and Anna Robertson

Mrs. Edith Robertson-In memory of Mrs. Mary A. Roberts

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Shem-In memory of Carl A. Shem

Mr. B. F. Stanton and the Woman's Congregational Society—In memory of Mrs. Alice H. Stanton

Mr. Harrison K. Strickler-In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Strickler

Mr. Samuel L. Sturgeon-In memory of Mrs. Bertha Fogg Sturgeon

Mr. Frank P. Taylor-In memory of Mrs. Frank P. Taylor

Dr. Harry L. Weaver—In memory of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Weaver

# THE MEMORIAL CHANCEL

DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND AS A PERPETUAL TRIBUTE TO OUR MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

WORLD WAR I - 1917-1918

KENNETH GRAHAM FLOYD JOHNSON FRANCIS WILLIAMS

WORLD WAR II - 1941-1945

JAMES B. FLOOD JOHN PAVALESCU
ISRAEL GARCIA RUSSELL H. SWEARINGEN, JR.
CLIFFORD TOMER

FOR ALL THE BOUNDLESS UNIVERSE IS
LIFE - THERE ARE NO DEAD"

# THE MEMORIAL CHANCEL

THIS CHANCEL IS DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONORED MEMORY OF

MR. AND MRS. ORVILLE WHITACRE ARTER DR. AND MRS. L. A. GRAWFORD DANIEL FREDERICK LEMBRIGHT MR. AND MRS. B. J. RICKARD MRS. MARY A. ROBERTS ALEXANDER AND ANNA ROBERTSON CARL A. SHEM MRS. ALICE H. STANTON MR. AND MRS. J. C. STRICKLER MRS. BERTHA FOGG STURGEON MRS. FRANK P. TAYLOR MR. AND MRS. L. L. WEAVER

WHAT WE KEEP IN MEMORY IS OURS UNCHANGED FOREVER"



"This do in remembrance of me."

#### **Memorial Gifts**

Through the years many persons have made memorial gifts to the Church. These gifts have added much to the beauty of the Sanctuary and other parts of the two buildings. We appreciate the generosity of the donors and shall hold in loving remembrance those in whose honor and memory these gifts have been made. It is fitting that we include a list of these memorials in this Centennial History.

- The Boyd Room—In memory of Miss Jane Boyd
- The Love Room—In memory of Mrs. A. B. Love
- The Robertson Study-In memory of Edith Robertson
- The Carillonic Bells—given by Mrs. William P. Akins in memory of Mrs. Charles Young Kay
- The Sanctuary Organ—given by the Rodman Family in memory of The Reverend Henry Herman Rodman
- The Chancel Furniture—given by Dr. and Mrs. B. C. Barnard in memory of Benjamin Barnard, Jr.
- The Chancel Altar Set—given by Miss Clara Rickard in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Rickard
- The Chancel Window—given by Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Morgan in memory of their daughter, Mary Louise
- The Pulpit Bible—given by the seven Johnson Brothers in memory of their Mother, Mrs. Alice Johnson
- The Lectern Bible—given by Jean Carson, Ralph Carson and Ruth Stephens in memory of their parents, Rev. and Mrs. L. L. Carson
- The Foyer Furniture—given by the Thompson Family in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Thompson
- The Sanctuary Windows—given by the Ladies' Aid Society and Ladies' Missionary Society in 1904 in memory of deceased officers
- The Chapel Piano—given by Morris Johnson in memory of his Mother, Mrs. Alice B. Johnson
- The Celtic Cross—on the Parish House given by the Weaver Bible Class in memory of their founder, L. L. Weaver.
- The Chapel Hymnals-given by the Weaver Bible Class in memory of Clark G. Shreve
- The Altar Set—in South Hall given by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Krumhaus in memory of Harry Mack Groat.
- The Kindergarten—Room and worship center given by Dr. B. F. Stanton and Margaret Sill Raymond in memory of Mary Young Stanton and Alice Stanton Sill.



Breaking Ground for Parish House



The First Shovel-full



Persons Participating in Ground Breaking



Placing Documents in the Corner Stone



Christmas Pageant — "The Light of the World"



Adoration Scene in the Christmas Pageant



The Manse — 1090 Kingsway

### The Church Directory

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Minister	Rev. John Vant Stephens, Jr.
Director of Christian Education	
Church Secretary	
Church Caller	
Church Custodians	Mr. and Mrs. Dwain Sigman

**BOARD OF ELDERS** 

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Mrs. Charles Olds, Chairman
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Mrs. Paul Bard Mrs. R. L. Kniveton Mrs. Oswald Morgan James H. Phillips Joseph Quinlan Mrs. Raymond Woolf

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THE CHURCH SCHOOL

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WOMAN'S CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY

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Recording Secretary, Mrs. Sydney Klein Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Roy Goddard Current Expense Treasurer, Mrs. Charles Bebout Benevolence Treasurer, Miss Anna Williams

MEN OF FIRST CHURCH

Richard A. White, President Ernest R. Valentine, Vice President

Stewart Baxter, Socretary James J. Owens, Treasurer

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 53. Robert Peters, Scoutmaster. Brownie Girl Scout Troop No. 8, Mrs. Merrick Lewis, Leader. Girl Scout Troop No. 10, Mrs. Sydney Klein, Leader. Young People's Westminster Fellowship, Mary Jane Klein, President. Senior High Westminster Fellowship, Bonnie Duncan. President. Junior High Westminster Fellowship, Gerald Quick, President.

THE COUPLETARIANS

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Valentine, Presidents

Mrs. Robert P. Sloan, Director of Music Mrs. Oswald Morgan, Director of Junior Choir LeRoy Abegglen, Church Organist.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Mrs. Robert Sloan, Soprano. Mrs. Alex McKay, Contralto. Richard White, Tenor.

## **Centennial Committee**

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	nMrs					
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TreasurerMr. John D. Boyd  Executive Committee						
Mr. John Bay	Mr. W. S. Heiser	Mrs. Clark Shreve				
Mr. John D. Boyd	Mrs. Henry Landkrohn	Mr. Elmer Simpson				
Mrs. E. T. Conrad Mrs. Nick Hampu, Jr.	Mrs. Susan McQuilkin Mrs. Charles Olds	Dr. B. F. Stanton Mrs. J. V. Stephens, Jr.				
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Mrs. C. R. Hopkins, Jr.	Mr. Merrill Purviance Miss Clara Rickard	Mr. Richard White				
	<b>Sub-Committees</b>					
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	Mr. Joseph Dalton Mrs. Cecil McBeth	Mr. Charles Sperow				
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22-500001 23-31-010	Mrs. William P. Akins	Mrs. H. W. Pritchard				
	Mrs. Albert Bauman	Mrs. Wade Shidler				
	Mrs. Horace Danner Mrs. Ralph Miller	Mrs. Fred Valentine				
Historical Sketch	Mrs. Clark Shreve, Ch. & Ed.	Mr. Willis Magrath				
Mistorical Shetten	Mrs. Nick Hampu, Jr.	Mr. H. W. Pritchard				
	Mr. Ralph Lucas	Dr. B. F. Stanton				
House	Mrs. William Hazlett, Chmn.	Mr. Donald Schuh				
Damana	Mrs. George Beach					
Pageant	Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Stephens, Jr.	The Table One to large				
Publicity	Mrs. Henry Untch, Chmn.	Mr. Joseph Quinlan				
Reception	Mrs. Nick Hampu, Chmn. Mrs. Robert Auld, Jr.	Miss Anna Millard Miss Margaret Patton				
	Mrs. Paul Bard	Mrs. G. W. Shem				
	Mrs. John D. Boyd	Mrs. M. G. Vernon				
	Mrs. William Clem	Mrs. G. W. Yanney				
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Women's Committee	Mrs. Ford Hoffman	Mrs. H. F. Seaver				
	Mrs. R. L. Kniveton					
Men's Committee	Mr. Richard White	Mr. William Hazlett				
	Mr. Harry Beach	Mr. Corwin Smith				
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Centennal Souvenirs	Mr. Elmer Simpson, Chmn. Mrs. Kenneth Hazen	Mr. E. J. Stevens				
	Mr. Ralph Lucas					

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